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COUNTRY

Poland

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Chemical Products and Paints

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. 25X1X

1. The sale of chemical products in Poland is handled by the State Center for Chemical Enterprises (Panstwowa Centrala Przemyslu Chemicznego) (PCPCH) in Warsaw. The PCPCH has offices on Mysia Street, a warehouse on Powaskowska Street, and a retail store on Nowy Swiat Street at the corner of Foksal Street.
2. About 90 percent of the material sold is reclaimed. There is a serious shortage of sulphuric acid (H_2SO_4) as well as H_2SO_3 ; it is also difficult to obtain hydrochloric acid (HCl). To change the acid in an automobile battery, for instance, one has to wait at least seven days. Small businesses have difficulty in procuring supplies, especially soldering and brazing material. Copper sulfate ($Cu SO_4$), zinc sulfate ($ZnSO_4$), and silicon hydrate (szkla wodnego) SiH_2O) are also in short supply. People working in the tanning industry allege that there is also a shortage of good tanning for treating hides.
3. Paints and dyes are also scarce in Poland. The few colors which are available, red and blue for instance, cost about 400 zloty per kilogram. All of these are slow-drying paints. Quick-drying paints, enamels, and lacquers are very difficult to obtain. What lacquers are available are made from low quality materials and have no gloss, as for example the lacquers used in automobile paints.
4. Oil base paints are very expensive; it costs about 350 zloty to paint an average size room with them. Oil paints are of such poor quality that painted vases and plates of baked clay sold by the Capitalistic Enterprises Section of the Municipal Retail Stores (Miejski Handel Detaliczny) in Warsaw lose all their color when washed.
5. Water colors used in schools, except for such colors as red, black and green, lose all their tone in a very short period of time.

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